

4-19-83  
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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**1. Name**

historic MANCHESTER COTTON AND WOOL MANUFACTURING CO. (Preferred) (VILC 127-56) 483

and or common STANDARD PAPER MFG. COMPANY.

**2. Location**

street & number Hull Street at Mayo's Bridge N/A not for publication

city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county (in city) code 760

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Warehouse

**4. Owner of Property** (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

name (1) Kenneth J. Aspinwall

street & number P.O. Box 24410

city, town Richmond N/A vicinity of state Virginia 23224

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richmond City Hall

street & number 900 East Broad Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None Previously Recorded has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Co. mill is one of the earliest and most impressive industrial structures in the Richmond area. Built between 1837 and 1840, the four-story, eleven-bay brick building on a raised stone foundation with a stepped-gable roof functioned as a cotton and wool mill during the 19th century. In 1901 the building was converted into a paper mill by the Standard Paper Company, and soon after that date a three-story brick addition on a raised stone basement was connected by a covered bridge to the mill's west wall. A second, smaller addition, not significant to the integrity of the building, has been built across the north end of the building, concealing a portion of its original river front facade. Although the mill machinery has been removed and the interior modified for use as a warehouse, the little-altered appearance of the exterior of the original mill along with its conspicuous setting on the James River parallel to Mayo's Bridge has made the structure a well-known landmark since the mid-19th century. The nominated property includes the original section; the three-story addition to the west, which is under separate ownership; and the detracting addition on the north end of the original building.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company is located on Hull Street in Richmond's Manchester district, paralleling the western abutment of Mayo's Bridge. Land tax records indicate that this mill was constructed between 1837 and 1840. Over the years a series of other buildings was erected as part of the mill complex, but by 1889 only the single original mill building remained. The existence of this structure is verified by a July 1889 map of Mayo's Bridge by F.B. Isaacs and in an advertisement for the Dunlop and McCance Milling Manufacturing Company which appeared in the Richmond City Directory of 1888.

The present additions connected to the west of the original mill were most likely constructed after 1901 when the mill was acquired by Standard Paper Manufacturing Company. Additionally, a fire appears to have occurred in the original mill sometime during the late 1890s, as evidenced by the altered physical appearance of the building's roof, evidence of new woodwork on the third and fourth floors, and the dramatic drop in the assessed value of the building from \$75,000 in 1892 to \$30,000 in 1901.

Earliest visual documentation of the mill is found in the Bohn Print of 1851 (Illust. 1) and lithograph of 1852 by J.W. Hill titled "View of Richmond" (Illust. 2; Valentine Museum). In the latter print, the mill is viewed from the south and is the only structure on a parcel of open land defined by the James River on the north and the James River Canal to the south. The print also shows that the mill is constructed of brick and is eleven bays long and four stories in height above the bridge abutment. A steep gable roof covers the structure. A long clerestory projects from the roof along its bottom half. A narrow, centered, projecting pavilion rising the full height of the building and capped with a wooden cupola forms the southern end of the mill. A stepped parapet tops the flat end of the north elevation. Fenestration along the east side elevation is symmetrically spaced, and spandrel panels separate each horizontal course of windows. Win-

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1837 - 1840, 1901 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Standing immediately adjacent to the south end of Mayo's Bridge (14th Street Bridge), this impressive industrial building has been a conspicuous landmark on Richmond's waterfront since its construction between 1837 and 1840 and survives as one of the earliest industrial buildings in the Richmond area. It is particularly significant as a concrete symbol of the pioneering efforts in the antebellum South to industrialize and diversify the region's one-sided agrarian economy. Anticipating calls by the prominent South Carolina industrialist William Gregg for construction of cotton manufacturing factories closer to the source of this leading American staple, the Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company established at this site one of the earliest and most successful of these enterprises. The building is perhaps most familiar as the foreground structure in the famous Currier and Ives print of Richmond's 1865 Evacuation Fire (Illust. 4) in which virtually all of Richmond's industrial buildings on the north side of the James River were destroyed. The milling complex operated successfully under several owners throughout the 19th century. In 1901 the four-story, eleven-bay structure was converted to a paper mill under the ownership of the Standard Paper Company. All machinery was removed following the conversion to its present use as a warehouse. However, the well-preserved exterior, dominated by its distinctive stepped gables, survives as a tangible reminder of Richmond's pre-eminence as an industrial city in the antebellum South.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company was built during the years 1837 and 1840 on land known as the "Manchester Commons," which was owned by the town of Manchester and leased to various manufacturing firms throughout the 19th century. The town was laid off in 1767 by William Byrd III and remained an independently governed community until its absorption by Richmond in the early 20th century. The Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly in March of 1832 along with a number of other manufacturing firms in the central Virginia area.<sup>1</sup> It is interesting to note that the Virginia General Assembly, by encouraging the raising of sufficient capital for such manufacturing enterprises, anticipated William Gregg of South Carolina's call to the South in the mid-1830s and 1840s to emulate its New England sister states in providing sufficient incentives for establishing factories and cotton mills.<sup>2</sup> Virginia's early leadership among Southern states in shifting from "cottage industry" production of cloth to large cotton milling enterprises<sup>3</sup> is not surprising in view of Richmond's previous success with large grain and corn milling. The city's Haxall and Gallego milling companies were among the most productive in the country. Being a deep water port and commercial hub with ample water power and access to the James River and Kanawha Canal, the state capital was an ideal location for receiving and manufacturing the expanding cotton supplies of the lower South. The planting of the state's textile industry in Richmond was also favored by a change in attitude toward domestically

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #4)

Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1832  
Broadus, Mitchell. The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South. Johns Hopkins University Studies,  
Series XXXIX, #2. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1966.  
Chesterfield County Deed Books 27 (1828), 29 (1834), 48 (1865), 55 (1872); Land Tax Books,  
Manchester District. 1837-1897: Legislative Petitions 1830-1859.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.36 acres

Quadrangle name Richmond, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 18 284720 4155900  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning on Hull Street at a point in the prolonga-  
tion of the wall forming the abutment of Mayo's Bridge and eleven feet from the end of such  
wall and running thence a nearly straight line along Canal Street westwardly 251.87 feet  
so as to include the 12' alley at the end of such property; thence northwardly along the

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #5 )

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date March 1983

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national X state    local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date APR 19 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MANCHESTER COTTON AND WOOL MANUFACTURING CO., RICHMOND, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

- (2) Ross Investment Corp.  
801 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

dows appear to be 4/4 with wood muntins and sash. An undershot water wheel, aligned perpendicular to the mill, is attached to the eastern side of the bridge abutment and appears to have been a functioning part of the mill's operation.

Later visual documentation gives additional substantive data. A plat (Illust. 6), found in Deed Book 2, p. 309, Hustings Courthouse, gives the dimensions of the mill (referred to as the "Brick House") as 105'2½" in length and 49'2" on the northern elevation. The cupola dimensions are recorded as being indented fifteen feet from either corner, eighteen feet on its sides, and nineteen feet on its front (south) side. A later view, of the northern elevation, is found in an ad for Dunlop and McCance Milling Company of 1888 (Illust. 7). That elevation shows that the mill was constructed on a full basement and that it was three bays wide with evenly spaced windows defining these bays on all five levels. At the attic level a smaller centrally placed sash window is flanked by a pair of quarter-moon-shaped windows. All of these features remain today. Two chimney stacks, now gone, projected above the top of the parapet. There was also what appears to have been a frame, one-story building perpendicularly attached to the western elevation, though this was later removed.

A 1902 view of the then newly built Standard Paper Manufacturing Company's Mills (Illust. 9; Valentine Museum) shows changes in effect after the 1890s fire. A shallow gable roof with no clerestory is in place. The cupola and the projecting bay supporting it are gone. The chimney stacks above the north end wall parapet were removed. The basement level is visible and reveals its massive cut stone construction.

Today the original outline of the mill's form remains as does much of its original construction. The mill remains eleven bays long. It is constructed of brick laid in three-course American bond with lime mortar and still rests on its original stone foundation. By contrast, the adjoining mill building is constructed in six-course American bond. Fenestration has been changed: square, metal, industrial sash have replaced the original sash. No signs of repointing occur over the window heads, which is curious, considering earlier visual documentation that suggested that all windows were surmounted by segmental arches. On both ends the quarter-moon-shaped windows in the attic story remain but have been filled in with brick.

The roof is covered with black tar over metal sheeting and is of the same profile as the post-1901 restoration. A two-story addition erected after 1901 to the northern elevation rests on numerous concrete piers on the river side of the mill and exposes the basement story of the original mill. (This addition obscures much of the river

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

facade of the original structure and is not significant to the integrity of the building.) There, the original stone construction remains intact as does the large central entrance and flanking sash. Those sash have replacement metal sash. Single entrances are found on the eastern and on the southern elevations; neither is original.

Extensive changes have been made to the interior structural system of the mill, possibly as a combined result of the 1890s fire and the different functional needs of a paper company. Each floor is subdivided into three open bays by thick wood columns and lintels which span the width of each bay. Floors are constructed of long, wide tongue-and-groove pine boards. All machinery has been removed. Evidence of the interior appearance from the 1870s is found in records of a court case--Virginia Reports, Volume 82. There one finds that the mill was four floors high and that the third and fourth floors were the weaving departments. Details of the size and mechanics of the weaving looms are also given.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

produced cotton goods in this period.<sup>4</sup> Prior to the 1830s, there was a notable preference for foreign, particularly English, products. With the enactment of the compromise tariff bill in 1833, the atmosphere for domestic manufacturers definitely brightened.

Land tax records for the city of Richmond indicate that the managers of the Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company wasted little time, building a mill assessed at \$80,000 by 1837. The brief economic recovery following the banking panic of 1837 may have been the impetus for an additional \$40,000 of building improvements to the mill complex by 1840. The two earliest buildings of the complex appear on the Charles Morgan "Plan of Richmond of 1848." "Smith's Map of 1853" and Ferslew's map of Richmond in 1859 also show a large milling complex at the south end of Mayo's Bridge. Falling cotton prices in the 1840s, the passage of a state law in 1840 which exempted local manufactures from certain taxes, the demand for Richmond's products in the California gold fields, and the rising call among Southerners for economic diversification and independence from Northern industrialists all contributed to the continuing success of Richmond's major cotton manufacturing firm during the antebellum period.<sup>5</sup> Symptomatic of the favorable economic climate for the industry in the period was "An address to the farmers of Virginia" read at a convention for the formation of a state agricultural society in 1852. The address urged increased manufacturing in the Commonwealth and particularly encouraged the enlargement of the textile industry in Richmond.<sup>6</sup>

The Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company continued operations during the Civil War, but the general economic depression that followed hostilities led to default by the company; its sale in 1872 for \$120,000 to Christopher McRaye, Lawson Nunally, and others; and its reorganization as the Manchester Cotton Mills. The elevated selling price of the firm indicates that the failure of the company had little to do with

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

the value of its property. Yet four years later, following the Panic of 1873, the property was sold to Samuel P. Arrington of Petersburg for only \$56,922. Mr. Arrington and his partners successfully operated the mill as the Old Dominion Cotton Mills for the next twenty years. In 1884 the mill was described as producing "shirtings" and "sheetings."<sup>7</sup> An 1888 publication extolling the industries of Richmond described the plant as including four buildings with 9,000 spindles and 260 looms. Four large water wheels supplied the "motive" power. A drawing of the mill complex in 1889 (Illust. 8) shows the complex in its heyday.<sup>8</sup>

Cotton manufacturing in Richmond in the 1890s fell on hard times. Even before the 1893 economic slump, the Chamber of Commerce Report for 1891 did not mention cotton manufacturing when discussing the numerous manufacturing enterprises even though cotton was among the chief commodities shipped through Richmond.<sup>9</sup> The 1895 Chamber of Commerce report discusses at length paper milling and flour and tan bark milling but completely ignores cotton and wool.<sup>10</sup> It is known that at some time between 1889 and 1892 the value of the buildings dropped from \$75,000 to \$30,000 indicating possible destruction of several of the mill structures. In 1901 the mill was bought by a group of Richmond businessmen for \$12,500, who immediately undertook the conversion of the mill for use as a paper manufacturing company, Standard Paper. This move would be logical in view of the large increase in the number of paper manufacturers in Richmond in the late 1890s. An explanation for the demise of the cotton manufacturing business in Richmond may be found in an 1898 article in Forum magazine called "The Depression in the Cotton Industry." The writer indicates that the long-term depression was a result of the failure of cotton manufacturers to seek new markets for their products in view of their greatly expanded production.<sup>11</sup> Another article in the same magazine characterizes the decline of the New England cotton manufacturers as resulting from failure to modernize and work well with labor.<sup>12</sup> Richmond cotton mills with older equipment proved unable to compete with newer Southern mills and, like their New England counterparts, had failed to seek out new foreign markets.

Following the purchase of the mill by Standard Paper Co., construction of several new buildings took place. The original 1837 cotton mill structure remains in use today as a warehouse.

MTP

<sup>1</sup>Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Richmond: Thomas Ritchie, 1832), Part 3, pp. 236-237. (1832).

<sup>2</sup>Melvin Copeland, The Cotton Manufacturing Industry of the U.S. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1923), p. 32.

<sup>3</sup>Robert Royal Russel, Economic Aspects of Southern Sectionalism, 1840-1861 (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1924), p. 40.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Footnotes

<sup>4</sup>George S. White, History of the Rise and Progress of the Cotton Manufacture in England and America (Philadelphia, 1836), p. 23.

<sup>5</sup>Russel, p. 16.

<sup>6</sup>Mitchell Broadus, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1921; reprint, 1966.), p. 35.

<sup>7</sup>Richmond: Her Commercial and Manufacturing Advantages (Richmond: Land and Thompson, 1884.), p. 49.

<sup>8</sup>Richmond, Virginia and the New South (Richmond & Chicago: George W. Engelhardt & Co., 1889.), pp. 126-127.

<sup>9</sup>Report of the Chamber of Commerce, Richmond, Va., April 1891 (Richmond: Baughman Stationery Co. Printers, 1891.), p. 146.

<sup>10</sup>Richmond, Va. Her Advantages and Attractions (Richmond, 1895), pp. 39-40.

<sup>11</sup>J.M. Rice, ed., The Forum (New York: Forum Publishing Co., 1898.), Vol. 25, pp. 593-597.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., pp. 438-440.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Copeland, Melvin. The Cotton Manufacturing Industry of the United States. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1923.

Hill, J.W. "View of Richmond, Virginia." 1852. (engraved lithograph.)

Manchester Hustings Court Deed Books 1 (1875), 2 (1877), 9 (1871), 9 (1889), 16 (1894), 18 (1896), 19 (1897), 22 (1901); Plat Book 2 (1889).

Report of the Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, Virginia, April 1891. Richmond: Baughman Stationery Co., Printers, 1891.

Report of the Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, Virginia, 1891-1893. Richmond: J.W. Fergusson and Sons, Printers, 1893.

Rice, J.M., ed. The Forum. New York: Forum Publishing Company, 1898.

Richmond: Her Commercial and Manufacturing Advantages. Richmond: Land and Thompson, 1884.

Richmond, Virginia, Her Advantages and Attractions. Richmond, 1895.

Richmond, Virginia and the New South. Chicago and Richmond: George W. Engelhardt and Co., 1889.

Richmond, Virginia. Valentine Museum Library Archives. Maps: Charles Morgan (1848); Smith (1853); W.E. Ferslew (1859); Composite Map of Richmond (1861-1865); Sheriff and Chataigne (1874-1875).

Russel, Robert Royal. Economic Aspects of Southern Sectionalism, 1840-1861. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois, 1924.

Virginia Reports. Vol. 82, p. 140.

White, George S. History of the Rise and Progress of the Cotton Manufacture in England and America. Philadelphia, 1836.

(See Continuation Sheet #5)



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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

western line of said alley to (the) James River (approx. 254 feet) and thence easterly along the margin of said river to the line of said Mayo's Bridge property and then along the line of that property south about 110 feet, southwest about 5 feet, then south-southwest 111.84 feet to the starting point. (Based on Plat of Survey, 2/13/79, Map 2 of 2 in this nomination report.)

Boundary Justification: The nominated property of 1.36 acres includes the original Manchester Cotton and Wool Manufacturing Company main building plus those appurtenances made by the Standard Paper Company which today dominate the site. The boundaries are as above--all that certain lot or parcel of land lying being situated in the City of Manchester.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Van Deusen, Glyndon G. The Jacksonian Era, 1828-1848. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1959.

